

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

March 3, 2005

For immediate release

1. Diesel fuel spills east of Iowa City
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DIESEL FUEL SPILLS EAST OF IOWA CITY

IOWA CITY — An accident Monday evening on Interstate 80 sent approximately 75 to 100 gallons of diesel fuel into a creek east of Iowa City.

A semi truck headed west on the interstate left the roadway, crossed the creek and came to rest in a farm field. The diesel fuel entered the creek, a tributary of Ralston Creek.

The incident was reported to the DNR on Wednesday by the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT). The DNR and DOT used absorbent pads and booms to contain the spill in the creek and prevent it from traveling further downstream. Downstream water users, including the University of Iowa, were also notified.

The responsible party in the spill, the truck owner, will be working with a contractor to clean up the spill.

The DNR will continue to investigate the situation and will consider appropriate legal action.

For more information, contact Josh Sobaski at (319) 653-2135.

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CITY OF CARROLL WORKS QUICKLY TO RESTORE DRINKING WATER

CARROLL — City employees in Carroll worked quickly to locate and remove an obstruction from a water main this week and restore water service to residents.

A stop in water service had been reported Tuesday evening, and city personnel located the obstruction in the main Wednesday afternoon.

The obstruction has been removed and the city is sampling the water for bacteria. Results of bacteria tests should be available Friday afternoon, and the city is working to determine the source of the obstruction. The city's water tower and an underground reservoir have been inspected, and all screens and access hatches are secure.

Throughout the repair of the main, chlorine residual levels remained high. Chlorine is used to prevent bacteria growth, and the residuals indicated that the chlorine was at a level necessary to ensure safe drinking water. The city used a large amount of chlorine to disinfect the pipes and then flushed hydrants upstream and downstream of the site to remove excess chlorine from the system.

City employees went door-to-door Wednesday night to notify residents in the affected area.

For more information, contact Randy Krauel, Carroll Public Works director, at (712) 792-1000; or Holly Vandemark, environmental specialist with the DNR field office in Atlantic, at (712) 243-1934.

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DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

DES MOINES — The DNR took the following enforcement actions between January and February 2005, unless otherwise noted. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Rolph of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

- Emery Unruh, of Stacyville, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fees, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regard to failure to submit an MMP for a site in Mitchell County.
- Michael Schroeder, of Lone Rock, was ordered to submit all information necessary to complete his manure management plan (MMP), including fees, and to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regard to failure to timely submit an MMP for a site in Kossuth County and for removing manure from a storage facility without an approved MMP.
- Virgil Ehlers, d.b.a. Ehlers Oil Company, of Soldier, was ordered to complete a site check at a former underground storage tank (UST) site by taking down-gradient groundwater samples, submit a report to the DNR, complete a Tier 1 or Tier 2

assessment report if groundwater samples are above certain levels, pay \$260 in delinquent tank management fees for the years 1998-2001 and to pay a \$8,040 penalty. The order is in regard to a site located on Highway 183 in Soldier.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- The City of Irwin agreed to an administrative consent order regarding its wastewater treatment plant. The city agreed to begin construction of required wastewater treatment plant upgrades by April 15, 2005 and complete construction by Sept. 30, 2005, and to pay penalties if construction does not comply with these deadlines.

For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131 or Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us.